THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AFRICAN COMPANYS *FORTS and SETTLEMENTS* CONSIDERED, &c.

K: Africa,

THE

IMPORTANCE

OF

EFFECTUALLY SUPPORTING

THE

Royal AFRICAN COMPANY

OF

ENGLAND

Impartially considered;

SHEWING,

That a FREE and OPEN TRADE to *Africa*, and the SUPPORT and PRESERVATION of the *British* COLONIES and PLANTATIONS in *America*,

DEPEND UPON

Maintaining the FORTS and SETTLEMENTS, RIGHTS and PRIVILEGES belonging to that CORPORATION, against the Encroachments of the *French*, and all other *Foreign Rivals* in that Trade.

The SECOND EDITION.

With a *New and more Correct Map than any hitherto published*, shewing the Situation of the several *European Forts* and *Settlements* in that Country.

In a LETTER *to a* MEMBER *of the* HOUSE *of* COMMONS.

LONDON:

Printed by E. SAY; and Sold by J. ROBERTS, in *Warwick-Lane*. 1745.

[Price One Shilling]

THE

IMPORTANCE

W. Musgrave

EFFECTUALLY SUPPORTING

THE

ROYAL AFRICAN COMPANY

OF

ENGLAND

Impartially considered;

SHEWING,

That FREE and OPEN TRADE to Africa, and the SUPPORT and PRESERVATION of the Infirm COLONIES and PLANTATIONS in America,

DEPENDS UPON

Maintaining the Forts and Settlements, Rights and Privileges belonging to that CORPORATION, against the Encroachments of the French, and all other Foreign Rivals in that Trade.

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THE
ATLANTIC
OCEAN
The Cape de Verd Islands
Parguas Bank
Gum Forests
River Senegal
Cape Verd
Jolloifs
River GAMBIA
James Fort
Cuttejar
Yanyamacund
River Cutchea
Bissao Portuguese
SIERRA LEONE
River Sierra
Cape S. Ann
Cape Mesurado
GRAIN COAST
IVORY COAST
Cape Palmas
Cape three points
WARIAN
TUFERO
KUFERO
ADOM
ABRIMBOO
YABOU
AHUNTAH
West
C. Appollonia
THE EQUATOR
Degrees of West Longitude
S.t Paule, a rock
I. S.t Mathew
I. Ascension
A New & Correct Map of The Coast of Africa From Cape Blanco Lat. 20. 40. N To the Coast of Angola Lat. 18. S. 1744
TO The Royal African Company of ENGLAND This Map is Presented by Their Most Humble Servant The Author


A Strong Current sets to Eastward excepting in the Hermitan Season about January when it sets the contrary way
A Seperate MAP of the Gold Coast upon a Larger Scale
English Miles
Dutch Miles
ARCANIA
AKIM
TOCQUA
QUAMBOO
ACCRA
ENGUINA
CABESTERRA
Acoran
ABRIMBOO
FANTEEN
ADOM
YABOU
AHUNTAH
TUFERO
KUFERO
CAPE COAST CASTLE
East
DAHOME
LU CAMEE
Ashantee
The Meridian of LONDON.
GOLD COAST
WHYDAH
BENIN
IVORY COAST
C. Appollonia
C. three points
Cape Formosa
CALLABAR
Old Callabar
I. Fernando Po
I. Princes
I. S.t Thomas
I. Annabona
Seven Hills
Nazareth
Cape Lopez
River Sesse
Redwood trees
MAJUMBA
In March April and May
During all the rest of the Year
River Congo or Zaire
ANGOLA
A Scale of English Leagues
Of these Leagues 23 ½ make a degree at the Equator.
Portuguese Leagues
Dutch Miles
EQUATOR
Degrees of West Longitude
Degrees of East Longitude
TO
Royal African Company of
ENGLAND
This Map is Presented by
Most Humble Servant
The Author

THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTUALLY SUPPORTING THE ROYAL AFRICAN COMPANY OF ENGLAND

Impartially consider'd, &c.

SIR,

IT being the Sense of the *Royal African Company of England*, in Conformity to *That* of the Nation in general, that the Trade to the Coast of *Africa* ought always to continue *free* and *open*, for the Benefit of all his Majesty's Subjects trading to those Parts; and also, that the Trade and Navigation to *Africa* in general should

never be charged with any Tax, Duty, Burthen or other Incumbrance whatever for the Maintainance and Preſervation of the *Forts* and *Settlements*, belonging to the ſaid Company: it is to be preſumed that no Well-wiſher to his Country, can object againſt the Reaſonableneſs and Neceſſity of the Publick's enabling the Company effectually to ſupport and maintain the *Britiſh Poſſeſſions*, *Rights* and *Privileges* in *Africa*; in order the more effectually to preſerve this invaluable Branch of Trade *free* and *open* to all His Majeſty's Subjects, againſt ſuch of our moſt formidable Rivals, who already poſſeſs, or are endeavouring to encreaſe the Number of their *Forts* and *Settlements* on the ſame Coaſt.

Should the Company be under a Neceſſity to evacuate and abandon their *Forts*, *Settlements* and *Caſtles* in *Africa*, no Man ſure will imagine we can preſerve the Trade, when we are depriv'd of thoſe Poſſeſſions, which have hitherto ſupported it.

May we not with equal Reaſon ſay, that if we were complaiſant enough to give up *Gibraltar* to the *Spaniards*, or *French*, that our Trade to *Italy* and the *Levant* would be equally ſecure? It is a certain Truth, that the effectual Support and Maintenance of our *Settlements* in *Africa* is not of leſs Advantage to our Trade and Navigation in *America* than *Gibraltar* is to that in *Europe*. It is an uncontroverted Maxim, *That the Want of Things moſt evidently ſhews the Worth of Them.* No People have experienced the Truth of this more than the *Spaniards*, who could never be ſo truly ſenſible of the Value of *Gibraltar*, 'till it came into *Britiſh* Hands, and their former Poſſeſſions and Fortifications were turn'd againſt Them.

Let

Let us but suppose for a Moment, that the *Royal African Company* were stript of their *Possessions*, *Forts* and *Castles* in *Africa*, and that they were in the Possession of the *French*, what must be the inevitable Consequence to the Trade and Navigation of these Kingdoms? Will not every *British Planter* in *America*, and every *West-India Merchant* in *England* grant, that the *Negroe Trade* on the Coast of *Africa* is the chief and fundamental Support of the *British Colonies* and *Plantations* in *America*? Should our most formidable Rivals monopolize the whole *African Trade* to Themselves, will they not naturally furnish their *own Colonies* with the *best* of *Negroes*, and suffer *Englishmen* to purchase their *Refuse* only; and that too at an exorbitant Rate? But supposing it were wholly in their Power, either to grant or refuse us such Permission, have we any Reason to believe they would be so gracious as to indulge us with the Liberty of purchasing any *Negroes* at all.

For when they should find Themselves in Possession of all the *Forts* and *Settlements* on the Coast, and consequently in full Possession of the whole Trade; when they should consider that the Wealth and naval Power of *Great-Britain* is, in a great Measure, owing to the extensive Commerce and Navigation to and from our *American Colonies* and *Plantations*; and that these must be totally ruin'd and undone, if unsupplied with *Negroes*; what Reason have we to believe they would suffer us to purchase a single *Negroe* on the Coast of *Africa*; or that they would not take every Advantage to distress and impoverish our *British Plantations* in this most vital and essential Point? No Man sure can imagine they would suffer our *Sugar Colonies* to be

 supply'd

supply'd with any *Negroes*, when it is well known they take every Occasion to rival us in that valuable Trade.

Our Neighbour-Nations wisely consider their *African Trade* in the Light of a *Nursery* to their *Colonies* and *Plantations* in *America*; and as such they studiously cherish and preserve it. And if the *French* could once wholly engross the same to Themselves, how are we secure that they would not be as successful in the *Sugar*, *Tobacco* and *Rice* Trades, as they have already been in the *Indigo*? The Acquisition of one Branch of Trade, will naturally animate an active and enterprizing Nation to make further Encroachments upon their Neighbours; especially when they must sensibly experience an *Encrease* of *Seamen* and *Shipping* on their Side, while they perceive a manifest *Declension* in both on the Side of *Great Britain*.

If the Preservation and Improvement of the *British Colonies* and *Plantations* in *America*, depend upon the Preservation of the Trade to *Africa*, as They are supply'd with *Negroe-Servants* only from thence, to cultivate and improve their Plantations with *Sugars*, *Tobacco*, *Rice*, *Rum*, *Cotton*, *Ginger*, &c. &c; if upon the Preservation of the Trade to *Africa* and the *West Indies*, the Consumption, as has been allow'd by the best Judges, of above One half of our Manufactures, and the Employment of above One Half of our Shipping and Navigation do depend; if the Value of *Lands* in *Britain*, do, and always must rise and fall in Proportion as our Manufactures and Navigation prosper or decline; and if the *national Revenue* must encrease or diminish, as the Trade to *Africa*, and our *Plantations* is better or worse protected and supported: If there be any Weight in these Considerations, is it not evident, that there is not a

Man

Man in this Kingdom, who, in Proportion to his Rank in the Community, does not more or less partake of the Benefit and Advantage of the *African Company*'s *Forts* and *Castles* in *Africa*; and who would not be a Sufferer in Proportion, should their *Forts* and *Castles* be abandon'd, or fall into the Hands of any other Nation? For,

It will soon appear, Sir, that we have no Reason to think our Trade to the Coast of *Africa* can be preserved and supported, without keeping up and maintaining our *Possessions*, *Forts* and *Castles* on that Coast.

For near 300 Years past, it has been the constant Policy of all *European* Nations, who have made *New Discoveries*, and gain'd any establish'd Power and Authority in barbarous Countries, to erect and maintain *Forts* and *Castles*; and, in Virtue of such Possessions, to claim a Right to whole Kingdoms, and to EXCLUDE all other Nations from trading in, to, or from Them.

By these Means the *Portuguese* long enjoy'd the whole Trade to *Africa* and the *East-Indies*; the *Spaniards* claim'd and engross'd to themselves almost the whole Continent of *America*, and most of the *Islands* adjacent thereunto. By this Means also, did not the *Hollanders* become absolute Masters of all the *Spice Islands*, and now supply the whole World with them, by such Quantities, and at such Prices as they think fit?

We once shared the Trade to *India* for *Nutmegs*, *Cloves* and *Spice*, with the *Dutch* and *Portuguese*; but for want of due Regard and Encouragement given to the *Old East-India Company* to preserve that Branch of Trade, the *Dutch* supplanted us both, and have engross'd that valuable Trade to themselves.

About 1660 the *Dutch* also attempted to gain the *entire Possession* of the most valuable Parts of the Coast of *Africa*, and to

EXCLUDE

EXCLUDE *Great-Britain* from any Share or Interest therein; as they have done in the *Spice Trade*; and thereby brought on themselves a War with this Kingdom, in 1664. Such Resentment has the *British* Nation shew'd, when Attempts have been made to deprive them of this important Branch of Commerce.

Before the *Royal African Company* had built a sufficient Number of *Forts* and *Castles* on the *Gold Coast*, the *Dutch*, interrupted our Trade, and seized and confiscated our Ships on that Coast, and within its Dependencies. Since the Company have built and maintained a sufficient Number of *Forts* and *Castles* on the *Gold Coast*, They, and all other *British* Ships and Vessels, have traded *freely* to this Coast, and all Places dependent thereon, without Interruption or Molestation from the *Dutch*, or any other Nation.

Before the *French* got Possession of the Forts, in the River *Senegal*, and on the *Islands* of *Arguin* and *Goree*, on the *North Coast*, the *English* traded *freely* and *openly* to all Places on that Coast, without Obstruction. Since the *French* have been in Possession of those Forts, they have assum'd the Right and Authority to EXCLUDE the *British* Nation from those Parts; *and do now actually take and confiscate all such* British *Ships* and Vessels as venture to go thither. And can it be reasonably presum'd, that they would not take the same Liberty to EXCLUDE the *British* Nation from those Parts of the *African Coast*, where they now freely trade, had they once got Possession of the *Forts* and *Castles* belonging to the *Royal African Company*?

Such however is the encroaching Industry of that Nation; and such their ardent Desire to engross the *African Trade* to Themselves, that by Virtue of one Fort in the River

Senegal,

Senegal, and another a little Diſtance from the ſame, in the Iſland of *Goree*, they not only claim an excluſive Right to all the Coaſt from *Cape Blanco* to the River *Gambia*, extending along the Shore about 400 Miles, but carry on a conſiderable Trade in the River *Gambia*, within Sight of the *Britiſh Fort* there; and on the *Gold Coaſt*, where, heretofore, they were never permitted or ever preſumed to purchaſe a *Negroe*, They have of late Years come in great Numbers, and trade at a Place called *Anamaboe*, within Sight of *Cape Coaſt Caſtle*, the principal *Britiſh Fort* on that Coaſt, and carry off yearly from thence Ten times more of the beſt *Negroes* to their own *Sugar Colonies* in *America*, than go to the *Britiſh Sugar Iſlands*; to the infinite Encreaſe of the *French Colonies*, and Detriment of *our own*.

And what encourages this encroaching Rival haughtily to EXCLUDE *Britiſh* Subjects from trading within ſeveral hundred Miles of their Forts, and on the other Hand to preſume to Trade even within Sight of our *Britiſh Forts*, is, the extraordinary Privileges and Encouragement they receive from their Country, while the Encouragement which the *Royal African Company of England* have received from the Publick for 14 Years paſt, bears no Proportion to the Charges and Expences which it would neceſſarily require, effectually to ſecure the *Britiſh* Rights and Privileges againſt ſuch Encroachments.

For the better ſupporting the *African Trade* to the *French* Nation, his *moſt Chriſtian Majeſty* has not only granted the *India Company of Paris*, the ſole Trade of that Coaſt, from *Cape Blanco* to the *Cape of Good-Hope*, but allows them "an Exemption from all Duties for Merchandize exported

" to

" to *Africa*, and to the *French Islands* and *Colonies* in " *America*: An Exemption from half the Custom of all " *Goods* and Merchandize imported from *Africa*; and " from half the Customs on all *Sugars*, and other Mer- " chandize imported from the *French Islands* and *Colo-* " *nies*, in *America*, being the Produce of the Sale of " *Negroes* there: An Exemption from all Tolls of any " Kind upon their Goods and Merchandize in *France*: " A Bounty of Thirteen Livres to be paid out of his own " Revenue for every *Negroe* carry'd to the *French Islands* " and *Colonies* in *America*: And a Bounty of Twenty " Livres for every eight Ounces of *Gold Dust* brought " into *France*." Thus we see of what Importance the *French* think the *African Trade* to be to that Kingdom, and what Encouragement they give to the *Negroe-Trade*: And is this Branch of less Moment to the *British* Nation?

In like Manner the States General of the *United Provinces*, for the better enabling their *West-India Company* to maintain their *Forts* and *Castles*, and all their Rights and Privileges in *Africa*, have not only granted that Company many great Privileges and Immunities, but allow them these extraordinary Aids and Incomes; " From the several " Provinces of *North Holland*, *Zealand*, and *Gronningen*, a " Subsidy of 38,000 Florins *per Annum*: A *Duty* of " Three per Cent. on all Goods and Merchandize exported " to, or imported from any Place between *Newfoundland* " and *Cape Florida*: A *Duty* of Two per Cent. on Goods " and Merchandize exported to, *or* imported from any " Place on the Continent of *America*, from *Cape Florida* " to the *River Oronoco*, including *Curassò*; both which are " computed to amount to 100,000 Florins *per Annum*, A

Duty

" *Duty* of Five Gilders per Last, on all Ships trading to *Cuba*, " *Hispaniola*, *Jamaica*, *Porto Rico*, and other *Caribee Islands*, " or to any Place from the River *Orenoco* to the Streights of " *Magellan*, and *La Maire*, and from thence to the " Streights of *Anian*, computed at 3,000 Florins *per* " *Annum*: One third part of the neat Income of the " Colony at *Surinam*, computed at 10,000 Florins *per* " *Annum*: The clear Profits of the Colony of *Isacapo* " computed at 20,000 Florins *per Annum*: And all the " Profits arising from the *Captures* and *Licences*, which " they are authorized to make upon, or grant to such *Por-* " *tuguese* Ships as come upon the Coast, from *Lisbon* or " *Brasil* for *Negroes*, valued at 100,000 Florins *per Annum*, " making in the Whole 271,600 Florins, or about 25000 *l.* " Sterling *per Annum*, *communibus annis*."

These, Sir, are the effectual Measures taken by the *French* and the *Dutch* to maintain and support their *Forts* and *Castles*, *Claims* and *Possessions* on the *African Coast*; which encourage Them to make Inroads and Encroachments on the *British Settlements*, and interfere with the Trade of the *British* Merchant; while the *Royal African Company* have for many Years past lain under such Discouragements, as have in a great Measure put it out of their Power duly to maintain and assert *their own and their Countrys Rights and Privileges*, in and to the Trade of those Parts where their *Forts* and *Settlements* are situated.

And if the various Competitors we have to contend with on the *African* Coast, plume themselves on their Superiority of Encouragement, from their respective States, to what is granted to the *Royal African Company of England*; and in Consequence thereof, take unjustifiable Liberties with

British Subjects, possess'd of much larger Settlements and having juster Claims than themselves, how can the *African Company* be expected to maintain the Balance of Interest, in Support of the *Rights* of our Merchants, without having suitable Encouragement from the Publick?

That we must be inevitably dispossess'd of our *Forts* and *Settlements* in *Africa*, provided the *Company* is not effectually enabled by the Legislature to maintain and support them in a proper and defensible Manner, will appear from briefly reviewing the past Attempts of our Competitors to wrest this Trade out of our Hands.

When the *Dutch* in 1637 took and possess'd themselves of the strong Fortress of *St. George del Mina*, on the *Gold Coast*, and soon after of all the other *Portuguese Forts* and *Settlements* on the same Coast, they would not suffer a *British* Ship to Trade on the *African Coast*; and this not only on the *Gold Coast*, and at Places near the *Dutch* Company's *Forts* and *Settlements*, but they seized and confiscated *British* Ships at Places several hundred Miles distant from them, and carry'd Them to *St. George del Mina*, and there condemn'd them.

King *Charles* the IId. being acquainted with the repeated Insults and Depredations committed upon *British* Ships, no less than Twenty having been taken by the *Dutch West-India Company* on the *African Coast*, His Majesty resolv'd to obtain Reparation for past Injuries, and effectually to secure that valuable Branch of Trade to his Subjects in future.

His Majesty therefore order'd his *Envoy* at the *Hague* to insist upon Reparation; and to convince the States he was in Earnest, at the same Time order'd a Man of

War

War to be fitted out to the Coast of *Africa* commanded by Captain *Holmes*. But neither had the desir'd Effect; the States started such Difficulties, and made such trifling Prevarications and Delays, that no Satisfaction could be obtain'd for past Injuries. Whereupon Captain *Holmes* possess'd himself of a Fort near *Cape de Verde*, belonging to the *Dutch West-India Company*; which so provok'd the *States*, that they fitted out a Squadron, under the Command of *De Ruyter*, who not only retook the Fort near *Cape de Verde*; and seized and confiscated all *British* Ships he could meet with, but took the *English* Fort at *Cormantine* and put a *Dutch* Garrison into it.

Some time before this Event, the Parliament had made Enquiry into the Obstructions and Encroachments of the *Hollanders* on our Trade, and into the Losses our Merchants had sustained thereby; which they found to amount to no less than near 800,000 *l.* Whereupon both Houses of Parliament came to this Resolution; viz. *That the Wrongs, Dishonours, and Indignities, done to his Majesty by the Subjects of the United Provinces, by invading his Rights in* India, Africa, *and elsewhere, and the Damages, Affronts and Injuries, done by them to our Merchants, were the greatest Obstructions of our Foreign Trade; and that the same be humbly and speedily presented to his Majesty, and that he be most humbly moved to take some speedy and effectual Course for Redress thereof, and all other of the like Nature, and for Prevention of the like in future; and that in Prosecution thereof, they would, with their Lives and Fortunes, assist His Majesty against all Opposition whatsoever.*

This Resolution being presented to his Majesty the 27th of *April* 1664, he was pleased to renew his Instances with

the *States* for Satisfaction so long demanded; and in an Audience of the 25th of *June* following, He told the *Dutch* Ambassador, *That it was not to be suffer'd that the* Dutch West-India Company, *only by the Means of a few Forts and three or four Ships, should pretend to render the Coasts of* Africa *inaccessible to all others, by blocking up the Havens against their Commerce, and keeping them off, and driving them from every Place.* And what availed these Remonstrances? The States turn'd a deaf Ear to them: The Losses of our Merchants amounted to too considerable a Sum to be easily reimbursed; and the Advantages of the Trade to *Africa*, could they have wholly monopolized and secured the same to themselves, as they aimed to do, were too important to be willingly parted with.

Instead therefore of giving the Satisfaction demanded, They made a further Attempt to become *absolute Masters* of this whole Trade: They renew'd their Insults and Depredations on the *British* Subjects with more Resolution than before, under the Conduct of their Admiral *De Ruyter*. So that His Majesty was under a Necessity, on this Occasion, of declaring War in Form, on the 2d of *February*, 1664, against the *States General of the United Provinces*.

Nothing is more evident than that the chief Views of the *Dutch* at this Time were, and for some Years preceding, had been, to EXCLUDE the *English absolutely* and entirely from the Trade to *Africa*; and to engross the same *wholly* to Themselves. Such was the high Estimation they set on this Trade, that, rather than consent the *English* should enjoy a Share of it *peaceably*, they chose to run the Hazard, and bear the Inconveniences of a *War with Great-Britain*.

But in Spite of all the Efforts of the *Dutch*, the *British Company* kept their Footing in *Africa*; and, by the third Article of the Treaty of Peace, concluded at *Breda*, 1667, it was mutually agreed that each Party ſhould keep and enjoy all ſuch *Lands*, *Iſlands*, *Towns*, *Fortreſſes*, *Places* and *Colonies*, which, the One had, by Force of Arms, or otherwiſe, taken from the other, as well during that War as before.

However, the Stipulations in this Treaty in Favour of the *then Company*, were far from being ſufficient to enable Them to bear up againſt the Difficulties they had to contend with. They were under the Neceſſity of being at a very great Expence, during the War, to ſupport their Forts; and met with no inconſiderable Loſſes by Captures, and otherwiſe at Sea, during Hoſtilities; that it was with the utmoſt Difficulty they could preſerve their Poſſeſſions.

To extricate themſelves from theſe Difficulties, they agreed, in Conſideration of a certain Sum of Money to be paid by another *New Company*, intended to be eſtabliſh'd, to ſurrender their *Charter* to the Crown, and tranſfer all their *Eſtate*, *Property*, *Intereſt*, and *Effects* in *Africa*, unto the *New Company*.

Of this His Majeſty approved, and was thereupon pleaſed to accept of the ſaid Surrender; and, by His *Letters Patent*, under the Great Seal of *England*, bearing Date the 27th Day of *September*, 1672, to eſtabliſh and incorporate the preſent *Royal African Company of* England, and to grant them *All and ſingular*, *the Lands*, *Countries*, *Havens*, *Roads*, *Rivers*, *and other Places in* Africa, *from the Port of* Sallee *in* South Barbary, *to the Cape of* Good Hope *for the Term of* 1000 *Years*, &c. with ſuch Powers and Privileges

Privileges as were then judged absolutely necessary, for enabling and encouraging them to retrieve and secure so valuable and important a Branch of Foreign Trade to this Nation.

This *New Company* set out with no larger Stock than 111,100 *l.* with which, small as it was, they apply'd themselves with all possible Vigour and Resolution to pursue the Ends of their Establishment. At this time, it must be observed, that the *Dutch West-India Company* were in Possession of the strong Fortress of *St. George del Mina*; and of the *English* Fort at *Cormantine*, then called *Fort Amsterdam:* They had likewise another, nam'd *Fort St. Anthony* at *Axim*, *Fort St. Sebastian's* on the River *Chamah*, *Fort Nassau* at *Moree*, two Leagues to Leeward of *Cape Coast*, another called *Creveceur* at *Acra*, and another called *Fort Conraadsburg* at *St. Jago*, within Cannon Shot of *St. George del Mina:* All on the *Gold Coast*, and commodious to succour each other in case of Need. The *Danes* were in Possession of one small but impregnable Fort (since called *Fort Royal*) within Gun Shot of *Cape Coast*; and another at *Acra*, to the Eastward of the *Dutch* Fort at the same Place. The *Elector of Brandenbourgh* (late King of *Prussia*) had one good Fort at *Cape Three-Points*, and two smaller ones at a little distance to the Eastward of the same. The *New British Company* possess'd one small Fort at *Cabo Corso*, it being the only Fort on all this Coast, which the *Dutch* had not dispossess'd the former Company of, during that War.

At this critical Point of Time, the present *Company* exerted themselves with no little Spirit and Resolution, to preserve the *African* Trade to these Kingdoms.

They

They enlarged *Cape Coast Castle*, and made it ten Times larger, stronger, and more commodious than before. They built *one Fort* at *Acra*, another at *Dixcove*, a third at *Winnebah*, a fourth at *Succundee*, a fifth at *Commenda*, and rebuilt a sixth at *Anamabee*, all on the *Gold Coast*; and three of them within Musket Shot of *Dutch* Forts. They also purchas'd *Fredericksburg*, now *Fort Royal*, of the *Danes*, without which *Cape Coast Castle* could not be so secure. They likewise built another Fort from the Ground at *Whydah*, for the Security of the *Negroe Trade* at that Place.

During the Reparation and Erection of these Forts, so exasperated were the *Dutch*, that we should compel them to admit us to *share*, only, the Benefits of this Trade with themselves, that their *West-India Company* gave the *Royal African Company* all possible Opposition on the *Gold Coast*, which often broke out into desperate Hostilities; And occasioned the *British* Company to be put to an incredible Expence in purchasing the Consent and Assistance of the Natives, for making such Settlements; as also for transporting, from time to time, the necessary Supplies of *Soldiers*, *Artificers*, *Provisions*, and all other *Materials* from *England*, for such Buildings: All which were rendered still more expensive and hazardous by the long War, which ensued with *France*.

Under all these Difficulties, the present Company never ceased their Efforts to serve their Country, untill they had put the *British* Interest, on this part of the Coast of *Africa*, on an equal Foot with the *Dutch*, and much superior to that of any other Nation whatsoever.

On the North Coast, where the the least Opposition was expected, Matters did not succeed so well to the *British* Company's

Company's Desire. *The Dutch West-India Company* possess'd the Forts of *Arguin* and *Goree*; the *French Senegal Company*, establish'd in 1673, possess'd a small Fort on an Island within the Bar, in the River *Senegal*; and the *African Company* of *England* had one small Fort in the River *Gambia*, and another Settlement in the River *Sierraleone*.

In this Situation Affairs continued till 1677, and the Companies of each Nation traded freely to all Places on the open Coast, not in the actual Possession of any of the other, from *Cape Blanco*, to *Cape Mount*.

In 1677, and 1678, the *French* took the *Dutch Forts* on the Isles of *Arguin* and *Goree*, which were yielded to *France* by the Treaty of *Nimeguen*. In 1685, the *French* King judging the Grant to the *Senegal Company* too extensive, from *Cape Blanco*, to *Cape Good Hope*, restrain'd that Company from *Cape Blanco* to the River *Sierraleone*; and erected another Company called the *Guinea Company*, and granted them the sole Trade to and from all that part of the Coast extending from the River *Sierraleone* to the *Cape of Good Hope*. From this time the *French* Trade to *Africa* was carry'd on by those two *distinct Companies*.

The latter of these made no great Progress in their Trade untill 1702, when the *French* King encouraged them with the *Contract* made with *Spain*, to introduce a certain Number of *Negroes* yearly into the *Spanish West Indies*. At the Treaty of *Utrecht* this Contract being transferr'd to *Great-Britain*, that Company was soon abolish'd, and the Trade to *Africa*, within the Limits, laid open to all the Subjects of *France*: Thus it continued from 1716 to 1720.

The

The *Senegal* Company were scarcely warm in their *new* Possessions before they claim'd all that Part of the Coast, extending from *Cape Blanco* to the River *Gambia*, about 500 Miles in Length. In 1681, they exerted all their Strength to obstruct the *African Company*'s Ships from trading along that Coast: But not being then in a Condition to contest that Point with them, they dropp'd their Pretensions for that Time.

So anxious were the *French* to engross this Trade to themselves, that in 1683, 1684 and 1685, they seized and confiscated the Ships belonging to the *Portuguese*, *Dutch* and *Prussians*. In 1685 they again resolutely renew'd their Claim against the *Royal African Company* of *England*; from which Time they began to give them frequent Interruptions in their Trade, till at last a War broke out between the two Nations. Thus we find by past Experience that both the *French* and *Dutch*, who have *Forts* and *Settlements* on the Coast of *Africa*, have often hitherto unsuccessfully endeavour'd to extirpate the *English* from their Neighbourhood: And if *Britain* should now tamely give up her *Forts* and *Settlements*, have we any Colour of Reason to believe we can support our Share of the Trade, when we are depriv'd of those Possessions which Experience shews, ever have and only can uphold our Right to it?

That Forts and Settlements on the Coast of *Africa* are indispensably necessary for the Preservation of that Trade to *British* Merchants in general will further appear by considering the Nature of it, and the Measures reasonable and necessary to be taken, in Order to encourage the Natives to maintain an Intercourse of Commerce with this Nation.

The Kings of these Countries being numerous, our Rivals settled on the same Coast, have, by Experience, always found it expedient to make strict Alliances with as many of the *Negroe Princes* as they can; to stipulate and agree to protect them whenever oppressed by their neighbouring *Negroe Princes*, who may be Allies to the *British* Company, and to supply them, on such Occasions, with Arms and Ammunition: And the Natives in Return on their part, stipulate to bring down and encourage a constant Currency of Trade from the *Inland* Countries to such allied *European* Settlements, in Opposition to other Competitors who have Settlements on the same Coast.

Should *Great-Britain* therefore give up their present Footing on the *African* Coast, and consequently not have it in their Power to take the like Measures as our Rivals do, would not the very Name of an *Englishman* soon, not only become contemptible, but absolutely forgot amongst such barbarous People? For, our Rivals being possess'd of all the *Forts*, *Castles* and *Factories*, and their *Governors*, *Factors* and *Agents* constantly maintaining their Alliances with the *Inland* Natives, must not this naturally and inevitably prevent all Trade with *British* Shipping, and totally draw the Whole into the Channel of Foreign Settlements, and for ever exclude *British* Merchants from having any Trade on the same Coast?

So oft as the Natives are at War amongst themselves, which is commonly the Case of those People, and are not supported by their *European Ally* against the Enemy, will they not naturally seek that Alliance, and carry the whole Trade to that *Settlement* which is the best able to assist them? The *Negroe-Trade* depending on the effectual Protection of the neighbouring

neighbouring Princes, can we expect to preſerve this Trade without being ſo ſituated as to ſupport them who ſupport our Trade? But how can theſe Friendſhips and Alliances be effectually made and cemented without the Company's Agents reſiding on the Spot, conſtantly aſſociating with the Native-Princes, and eſtabliſhing Factories many hundred Miles Inland, by the means of Rivers, where none but ſmall *Sloops* and *Canoes* can go to traffick? While our Rivals ſhould purſue theſe Meaſures, and we neglect Them, is there the leaſt Reaſon to imagine They would ſuffer an *Engliſhman* to purchaſe a *Negroe* to carry to the *Britiſh Colonies* and *Plantations*, while thoſe Engroſſers had a *Plantation* of their own to ſend them to? Could we ever expect the Re-eſtabliſhment of an *Aſſiento Contract*, whereby to ſupply the *Spaniſh Weſt-Indies* or the *Brazils* with *Negroes?* Would not an Abolition of the preſent *African Company*, be an effectual Meaſure to deprive *Great-Britain* of all Advantages of this Nature, and to throw them for ever into the Hands of other *European* Powers?

Beſides; are the *Exports* to the Coaſt of *Africa*, and *Imports* from thence, conſidered even abſtractedly from the *Negroe-Trade* and the Preſervation of our *Colonies* in *America*, of no Conſideration to *Britain?* Caſt your Eye, Sir, only upon part of the Particulars, and then judge whether *Britiſh* Manufacturers in general will not be great Sufferers by the Loſs of this Branch of Trade, and the *Eaſt India Company* in particular not inconſiderably ſo? *

 As

EXPORTS.

* *Annabaſſes*, *Arrangos*, *Rough Amber*, *Braſs* of all Sorts, *Blankets*, *Bays*, *Bells*, *Amber Beads*, *Cryſtal Beads*, *Coral Beads*, all other *Beads*, *Broad Cloth*, *Boyſadoes*, *Carpets*, *Camblets*, *Copper* of all Sorts, *Coral*, *Cotton Stuffs of many Sorts*, *Worſted Damasks*, *Druggets*, *Durois*, *Earthen Ware*, *Fringe*,

As therefore no Man acquainted with the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom, can doubt the Importance of the *African* Branch, consider'd in its full Latitude and Extent; as we have seen the high Value our Rivals set upon this Trade, and what extraordinary Privileges and Encouragements They give to their respective Companies on this Coast; as Experience has shew'd how our Neighbours have struggled, not only to preserve but enlarge their *Forts* and *Settlements*, and wrest ours out of our Hands; as such is the Nature of this Trade, that no Nation ever has judg'd it practicable to maintain and support their Claim to it without *Forts* and *Settlements* on the Spot, the more effectually to encourage the Natives to bring Trade

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Fringe, Flints, Fire Steels, Fuzees, Muskets, Carbines, Blunderbusses, Buccaneers, Fowling Pieces, Trading Guns, Pistols, Gun-powder. Goods from the *East-Indies*, viz. *Atlasses, Atchabannies, Allejars, Allibannes, Brawls, Basts, Bejutepauts, Bombay Stuffs, Callicoes, Carridarries, Cherconnees, Chelloes, Chillas, Chints, Coopees, Cowries, Chucklaes, Cushlaes, Cuttanees, Elatches, Ginghams, Guinea Cloths, Jamewares, Long-Cloths, Longees,* Herba *Longees,* Silk *or* Phota *Longees, Lemannes, Muslins, Negannepauts, Nillaes, Niconees, Pintadoes, Photahs, Poizees, Romalls, Salampores, Sattins, Seersuckers, Tapseels, Taffaties* Herba, *Taffaties* Silk, *Tepoy's, Sousees,* and many other Silks and *Callicoes. Fine Hats, Felt Hats, Handkerchiefs, Hollands, Iron Bars. Wrought Iron, Knives, Lead Bars,* and *Lead Shot.* Liquors, *viz. Arrack, Brandy, Beer, Rum, Malt Spirits, Wine. Long Ells, Looking Glasses, Medicines, Paper, Padlocks, Pewter. Perpetuanoes* or *Ranters.* Provisions, *viz. Beef, Bread, Butter, Cheese, Flower, Pork, Suet, Vinegar, Oil, Sugar, Raisins, Spices, Tobacco. Shalloons, Silesia Linnen,* and all other *German, Scotch* and *Irish Linnens, Sealing Wax, Swords* of all Sorts, *Hangers, Symetars, Cutlasses, Soap, Slops, Tallow. Trimming,* as *Lace, Buttons, Gold and Silver Thread, Mohair-Buttons, Silk, Thread. Ticking, Striped Hollands,* and *Striped Linnens, Welch Plains. Coats, Waistcoats, Breeches Drawers, Shirts, Shoes, Slippers, Stockings, Perukes, Wool Cards,* all *Coarse Woollen Cloths,* &c. &c. &c.

IMPORTS.

Gold, Bees-Wax, Elephants Teeth, Gums of various Sorts, *Cotton Wool, divers Dying Woods, and* Negroes *or* Labourers *for the* Plantations, &c.

Trade to their particular Factories, and give due Weight to their Alliances with them: As these are Facts incontestible, sure no Man in the Interest of his Country, will take upon him to say that this Trade can be preserved in future to *Great-Britain*, without the effectual Maintainance of the *Forts* and *Settlements* upon that Coast.

These Facts are now so notorious, that I am perswaded there is not a *British* Trader to the Coast of *Africa* in the Kingdom, but will readily grant that our Trade could not be carried on with any Security to those Parts, were the *British Forts* and *Settlements* in Foreign Hands.

But if it should be imagined that *Stationed Ships* would effectually support our Trade and Interest with the Natives, the Experiment has, and always must inevitably prove abortive, and the Mistake too late discover'd; for of what inland Service, on any Emergency, can they be to the Natives; What Opportunity could they have to cultivate such Good-Understanding and Alliances with them, as the *Governors*, *Factors* and *Agents* of the Company do, by travelling hundreds of Miles inland, daily associating with their *Princes* and *Chiefs*, and doing them constant Offices of Benevolence?

At our *British* Colonies on the Continent of *America*, where even there are many hundred thousands of *British* Subjects resident, *Stationed Ships* alone, tho' ten times the Number usually kept there, would little avail to support our Footing, and our Trade to those Parts, without cultivating a constant Friendship and Alliance with the *Indian Nations*. Do not the *French* pursue these Measures as a *Barrier* against the *English*? If they pursue such Policy, and we re-

ject

ject it, how can we expect to maintain the *British* Interest to as good Purpose as our Neighbours do theirs?

The Case is parallel: If the *Dutch* and the *French* do not trust the Support and Protection of their Share in the *African Trade* to *Stationed Ships* only, and we should, how could we maintain an Equality of Power and Interest on that Coast? But this Experiment was actually tried about eight Years ago on the *Gum-Coast*, and found ineffectual; for when the Government sent to that *Coast* two Men of War of superior Force to the *French* to protect the Merchants Ships there, the *French* by Virtue of *one* Fort only, and their Interest with the Natives on Shore, brought the Negroe-Traders under such Subjection, that they did not dare to carry off any Trade to the *English* Shipping; whereby sundry *British* Ships then made such ruinous Voyages, that none of late Years have ventured to Trade to those Parts with, or without Convoy.

But farther; besides the evident Impossibility of *Stationed Ships*, for answering the Purposes of securing a constant Intercourse of Trade with the Natives on Shore; would the Expence of such Ships to the Nation, by so dangerous an Experiment, bear any Proportion to that which would enable the Company to protect that Trade in general in a much better and more effectual Manner, by Means of their *Forts* and *Settlements*?

So sensible have the Legislature formerly been of the Necessity of *Forts* and *Settlements* for the Preservation of this Trade, that as often as They have taken the State of the same into Consideration, they have made the strongest Declarations thereof.

In

In 1693, the Consideration of the Trade to *Africa* being referred to a Committee, they reported their Opinion, " That *Forts* and *Castles* are necessary for carrying on " the Trade to *Africa*, *&c.*" In 1694 the Consideration of that Trade being referr'd to a Committee, They likewise reported it as their Opinion to the House, " That " *Forts* and *Castles* are necessary for carrying on and pre- " serving the Trade to *Africa* to this Nation, *&c.*"

In 1697, when the Trade to *Africa* was laid open by Act of Parliament, the whole Legislature declared; " That " *Forts* and *Castles* are *undoubtedly necessary* for the Preser- " vation and well-carrying on the said Trade.".

Upon the Expiration of the said Act, in 1712, it was again resolved, That for the preserving, better carrying on, and improving the Trade to *Africa*, it is necessary that *Forts* and *Castles* be maintained and *enlarged* on that Coast.

On the 26th of *March*, 1730, the House of Commons came to the following Resolutions, *viz.* 1. " That the " Trade to *Africa* ought always to remain free and open to " all His Majesty's Subjects." 2. " That the Trade and " Navigation to *Africa* ought never to be charged with any " *Duty* for the Maintenance of the *British Forts* and *Settle-* " *ments* belonging to the Company." 3. " That it was " necessary to keep up and maintain the *British Forts* and " *Settlements* on the Coast of *Africa*." 4. " That an " Allowance ought to be made by Parliament to " the Company to maintain and support the said *Forts* and " *Settlements*."

In Pursuance of these Resolutions, it was voted in a Committee of Supply, That the Sum of 10,000 *l.* be granted to His Majesty to be applied towards the Maintenance

of the *British Forts* and *Settlements*, belonging to the *Royal African Company* of *England* on the Coast of *Africa*; which said Sum was paid to the Company accordingly: And upon the Company's petitioning the Honourable House of Commons every Year since, they have been pleased to grant the like Sum; which, with several considerable addditional Sums, has been from time to time apply'd accordingly.

For, by Accounts taken from the Company's Books, it appears that from *December* the 31st 1729, to *December* the 31st, 1741, the Expences of maintaining their *Forts* and *Settlements* in *Africa*, (exclusive of Commissions, *&c.* paid to Agents and Factors abroad, and of the Charges of Management, Interest paid for Money, and other Contingent Expences at Home, amounting in 14 Years to upwards of 70,000 *l.*) have been no less than 203,433 *l.* 5 *s.* 10 *d.* in Sterling Money; which in an Average, amounts to 16,952 *l.* 15 *s.* 5 *d.* *per Annum.* And tho' the Books and Accounts for 1742 and 1743 are not yet come from *Africa*, so that they cannot exactly ascertain the Expences of these two last Years; yet if the same be taken in an Average with the preceding twelve Years, amounting as above, to 203,433 *l.* 5 *s.* 10 *d.* the Proportion for the said two Years will be 33,905 *l.* 10 *s.* 10 *d.* more.

But the Company have received of the Publick Money only 136,075 *l.* 2 *s.* and no more clear of Fees. Whereby it appears, that from *December* 31st 1729, to *December* the 31st 1743, the Company have expended, in support of their *Forts* and *Settlements* for the general Benefit of the Publick, more than they have received, upwards of the Sum of 101,000 *l.* And whether the Company have not a Right, consistent with the Principles

ciples of Juſtice and Equity, to have at leaſt the above Deficiency of 101,000 *l.* (which is only the *Principal Sum* excluſive of any Intereſt for the Surplus Moneys annually expended by them) made Good by the Publick, to enable Them to put their *Forts* and *Settlements* into a good and defenſible Condition, is ſubmitted to your impartial Judgment.

I am willing to flatter myſelf that You will by this Time think I have ſaid enough in the foregoing Pages to convince every impartial Reader of the Importance of the *Britiſh Forts* and *Settlements* on the Coaſt of *Africa*; and of the Neceſſity of maintaining and ſupporting Them, in a better and more effectual Manner than the Company have hitherto been able to do: But as this is a Point that cannot be ſet in too clear and ſtrong a Light, I hope you will not think it improper if I here take the Liberty to conclude this Subject with an Extract from a *Memorial*, which the Company laid before the *Right Honourable the Lords Commiſſioners of Trade and Plantations*, ſo long ago as the Year 1726; ſetting forth in the Company's own Words, the Nature, Number, Strength, Situation, Value, and Importance of the ſaid *Forts* and *Settlements*.

The ſaid *Memorial* bears Date the 26th of *March*, 1726, and therein the Company repreſent as follows, *viz.*

" The *Royal African Company of England* having received " your Commands by a Letter from Your Secretary of the " 25th inſtant, to lay before *Your Lordſhips* an Account of " the Nature, Number, Strength and Situation of their *Forts* " and *Settlements* on the Coaſt of *Africa*; in Obedience " thereto, and in Order to ſet the *Nature*, *Value*, and *Im-*

" *portance* of the ſaid Forts in a due Light, They hum-
" bly hope *Your Lordſhips* will give Them leave in the firſt
" Place to lay before You a ſhort Account of the *Num-*
" *ber* and *Situation* of the ſeveral *Engliſh*, *French*, *Dutch*,
" *Daniſh*, and *Portugueſe Forts* and *Settlements* in the ſame
" Order they lay on that Coaſt; and Secondly a more
" particular Account of the *Nature*, *Strength*, and *Situa-*
" *tion* of the *African Company's Forts and Settlements.*

" Firſt, as to the Number and Situation of the ſeveral
" *Forts* and *Settlements* belonging to the *Engliſh*, *French*,
" *Dutch*, *Portugueſe* and *Danes*, They are as follows; *viz.*

" 1. The Northermoſt Settlement is that at ARGUIN
" on the *Gum-Coaſt* in the Latitude of 20 Degrees North,
" formerly belonging to the King of *Pruſſia*, for which in
" the late *Queen's* Time, on Occaſion of an Overture
" made by the ſaid King to diſpoſe of That and another
" ſmall Fort at *Cape-Three-Points*, which is afterwards
" mentioned, to this Nation, He demanded for Them
" 200,000 Crowns; but they have ſince been purchaſed
" of him by the *Dutch*, (as they have been informed)
" for 30,000 *l.* And afterwards taken by the *French* in
" 1721, and now in their Poſſeſſion.

" 2. The RIVER SENEGAL, in the Latitude of 16
" Degrees North, where the *French* have ſeveral Settle-
" ments and Plantations for a great Way up the River.

" 3. The ISLAND GOREE, a little Southward of
" *Cape de Verde*, where the *French* are likewiſe ſettled and
" have a ſtrong Caſtle.

" 4. The RIVER GAMBIA, in the Latitude of 13
" Degrees 40 m. North, where the *Royal African Company*
" have a very good Fort on *James Iſland*, a little Way

" up

" up from the Mouth of the said River, together with " sundry *Factories* higher up, on each Side of the Same.

" 5. CUTCHEO and BISSEO, two *Portuguese* Settle- " ments lying in 12 Degrees North Latitude.

" 6. SIERRALEONE RIVER, in the Latitude of 8 " Degrees 30 m. North, where the *Royal African Company* " have a Fort on *Bence-Island*, a little Way up from the " Mouth of the said River. *

" 7. SHERBROE RIVER, in the Latitude of 7 De- " grees North, where the *Royal African Company* had lately " a Fort on *York Island*, near the Mouth of the said River; " but keeps now only a Factory there. §

" 8. ANCOBRA, the first *European* Factory on the *Gold* " *Coast*, belonging to the *Dutch West-India Company*.

" 9. AXIM, about one League to the Eastward of " *Ancobra*, a Fort belonging to the *Dutch West-India* " *Company*.

" 10. FREDERICKSBURG at *Cape-Three-Points*, about " five Leagues to the Eastward of *Axim*, a Fort formerly " belonging to the *King of Prussia*; lately sold by him, to- " gether with that at *Arguin* beforementioned, to the " *Dutch* for 30,000 *l*; afterwards taken and demolished " by the Natives; and lately recovered out of their Hands " at the Expence of a long and chargeable War; and " now resettling by the *Dutch West-India Company*.

" 11. DIXCOVE, a Fort belonging to the *Royal African* " *Company*, about eight Leagues Eastward of *Cape-Three-* " *Points*.

 " 12. BUT-

* *The Company have had no Settlement there since* 1728.
§ *This Factory was withdrawn before the Year* 1730.

" 12. BUTTEROE, a Fort belonging to the *Dutch*
" *West-India Company*, about three Leagues Eastward of
" *Dixcove*.

" 13. TACQUERADO, a Factory House belonging to
" the *Dutch West-India Company*, about three Leagues East-
" ward of *Butteroe*.

" 14. SUCCUNDEE, a Fort belonging to the *Dutch*
" *West-India Company*, about three Leagues Eastward of
" *Tacquerado*.

" 15. SUCCUNDEE, a Fort belonging to the *Royal*
" *African Company*, within Gun-Shot of the last mention'd
" *Dutch Fort*.

" 16. SHUMAH, a Fort belonging to the *Dutch West-*
" *India Company*, about four Leagues to the Eastward of
" *Succundee*.

" 17. COMMENDA, a Fort belonging to the *Royal*
" *African Company*, about five Leagues Eastward of *Shumah*.

" 18. COMMENDA, a Fort belonging to the *Dutch*
" *West-India Company*, within Gun Shot of the last men-
" tioned *English Fort*.

" 19. St. GEORGE DEL MINA, the Principal Fort
" belonging to the *Dutch West-India Company* on the *Gold-*
" *Coast*, about four Leagues Eastward of *Commenda*.

" 20. St. IAGO, a Fort on the Top of a Hill, within
" Gun-Shot of *St. George del Mina*, belonging to the same
" Company.

" 21. CAPE-COAST-CASTLE, the principal Fort
" belonging to the *Royal African Company* on the *Gold*
" *Coast*, about three Leagues to the Eastward of *St. George*
" *del Mina*.

" 22. PHIPPS's

" 22. PHIPPS' TOWER, built for the Defense of " *Cape Coast* towards the Land.

" 23. FORT ROYAL, on the Top of a Hill within " Gun-Shot of *Cape-Coast-Castle*, belonging to the *Royal* " *African Company*.

" 24. QUEEN ANN's POINT, a small Fort about a " League to the Eastward of *Fort-Royal*, belonging to the " *Royal African Company*.

" 25. MOUREA, a Fort belonging to the *Dutch-West-* " *India Company*, about two Leagues to the Eastward of " *Queen Ann's Point*.

" 26. ANNISHAN; a Factory belonging to the *Royal* " *African Company*, at present withdrawn, about two Leagues " and a half to the Eastward of *Mourea*.

" 27. ANAMABOE, * a Fort belonging to the *Royal* " *African Company*, about two Leagues to the Eastward " of *Annishan*.

" 28. AGGA, a Factory belonging to the *Royal African* " *Company*, at present withdrawn, about a Mile to the East- " ward of *Anamaboe*.

" 29. CORMANTINE, a Fort built by the *English*, " and in the War 1665 taken by the *Dutch*, and now be- " longing to the *Dutch West-India Company*, about two " Leagues to the Eastward of *Anamaboe*.

" 30. TANTUMQUERRY, a Fort belonging to the " *Royal African Company*, about seven Leagues to the " Eastward of *Cormantine*.

" 31. APONG, a Fort belonging to the *Dutch West-* " *India Company*, about three Leagues to the Eastward of " *Tantumquerry*. " 32. WIN-

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*This *Fort was relinquish'd before* 1730, *but is necessary to be resettled again*.

" 32. WINNEBAH, a Fort belonging to the *Royal* " *African Company*, about five Leagues to the Eastward of " *Apong*.

" 33. BARRACOE, a Fort belonging to the *Dutch* " *West-India Company*, about six Leagues to the Eastward of " *Winnebah*.

" 34. SHIDOE, a Factory belonging to the *Royal African* " *Company*, about four Leagues to the Eastward of *Barracoe*, " now withdrawn.

" 35. ACRA, a Fort belonging to the *Royal African* " *Company*, about six Leagues to the Eastward of *Shidoe*.

" 36. ACRA, a Fort belonging to the *Dutch West-India* " *Company*, within Gun-Shot of the last mentioned *English* " *Fort*.

" 37. ACRA, a Fort belonging to the King of *Den-* " *mark*, about two Miles to the Eastward of the *Dutch Fort*.

" 38. ALLAMPO, a Factory belonging to the *Royal* " *African Company*, about five Leagues to the Eastward " of *Acra*, at present withdrawn. *

" 39. QUITTAH, a Factory belonging to the *Royal* " *African Company*, about fifteen Leagues to the Eastward " of *Allampo*.

" 40. WHYDAH, a Place where the *English* and *Dutch* " only were allow'd to Trade formerly; for which Reason the " *Royal African Company* built, and have still kept up and " maintain'd a Fort there, called *William's Fort*; but some " Years since, the *French* obtained leave to build a Fort " at the same Place; and it is now through the Cunning " of

* *The Company instead of resettling this Factory have lately settled one at* Prampram *nearer to the River* Volta.

" of the Natives made a Free-Port for all Nations to re-
" sort to; the Consequence whereof is, that Negroes,
" which were purchased there when the *African Company*
" first settled among them, for about fifty Shillings or
" three Pounds *per Head*, are now advanced to Twenty
" Pounds *per Head* first Cost. This Place lies about twenty
" Leagues to the Eastward of *Quittah*.

" 41. JACQUIN, a Factory belonging to the *Royal Afri-*
" *can Company*, about three Leagues to the Eastward of
" *Whydah* Road; at present withdrawn.

" 42. CABENDA, a Fort on the Coast of *Angoy* in
" the Latitude of 5 Degrees South, built by the *Royal*
" *African Company* in the Year 1721, and taken, plunder'd,
" and destroy'd by the *Portugueze* in the Month of *Octo-*
" *ber* 1723.

" 43. LOANGO St. PAUL's, in the Latitude of 10
" Degrees South, where the *Portugueze* have several Forts
" and Settlements, and a large City; and thereby carry on
" a very great and advantageous Inland Trade for some
" hundreds of Miles.

" From this general Account, *Your Lordships* will perceive
" the high Value other Nations set upon the Trade to
" *Africa*, and with what Care, Industry and Expence They
" have laboured to gain and secure to Themselves a Share
" therein. And that *Your Lordships* may be more particularly
" apprized of the Part which the said *Royal African Company*
" have likewise taken in this general Struggle; they humbly
" beg leave in the second Place to lay before you the follow-
" ing more particular Account of the *Royal African Company's*
" *Forts* and *Settlements* on the Coast of *Africa*.

" I. CAPE-COAST-CASTLE, for which the present
" Company paid their Predecessors 34000 *l*; situated
" about

" about the Middle of the *Gold Coast*. The Fortifications
" consist of Outworks, Platforms, and Bastions, and have
" been enlarged with new Buildings, and made regular as
" well as ten times larger and stronger by the present
" Company, with Stone, Brick, Tiles, Lime and Tarras;
" and is a Security for all Ships in the Road; was many
" Years doing; having Apartments for the *Director-General*,
" *Chief-Merchants*, *Chaplain*, *Factors*, *Writers*, *Surgeons*,
" *Artificers*, and *Soldiers*; Magazines, Ware-houses, Store-
" houses, Granaries, Guard Rooms, Two large Tanks
" or Cisterns, built with Brick and Tarras sent from *England*,
" and holding about 200 Tons, Repositories to lodge
" one thousand Negroes, and Vaults for Rum, Work-
" houses for Smiths, Armourers, Coopers and Carpenters;
" Fifty-seven great Guns, Small Arms, Blunderbusses, Buc-
" caneer Guns, Pistols, Cartouch Boxes, Swords and Cut-
" lasses, Ammunition for Great Guns and small Arms,
" Stores and Tools for Brick-makers, Bricklayers, Smiths,
" Carpenters, Coopers, Surgeons, Armourers, Gunners,
" and Gardners; Small Vessels, Pinnaces, Cannoes and
" Men answerable attending on the Castle and Garrison, and
" for fetching and carrying Materials for Building, and
" Stores to and from the Out-Forts. This Castle is situ-
" ated in *Fetue*, the Residence of the Company's *Director-*
" *General*, who manages their Trade and Alliances with the
" several Kingdoms on the *Gold Coast*, and opens a Trade
" to *Fetue*, *Saboe*, *Cabestera*, *Arcania*, *Cuffera*, *Dankera*, and
" *Ashantee*; And is a Repository of Goods for Supply of
" all the Factories: with Ponds and Canals of Fresh Water,
" and Gardens of a large Extent, producing all Necessaries
" for the Castle and Shipping, as *Plantaines*, *Bonanoes*, *Pine*

" *Apples*,

" *Apples*, *Potatoes*, *Yams*, *Corn*, *Colworts*, *Peas*, *Beans*, " *Cabbages*, and all other *European* Refreſhments.

" II. PHIPPS' TOWER, built for the Defence of " the Negroe Town of *Cape Coaſt* againſt any Inland " Enemy.

" III. FORT ROYAL, bought of the *Danes* by the " preſent Company for 4,597*l*; and Aſſiſtant to the De- " fence and Security of *Cape Coaſt*, and the Ships in the " Road.

" IV. QUEEN ANNS POINT, built for the Secu- " rity of *Cape Coaſt Caſtle*, and for purchaſing *Corn*, *Negroes* " and *Gold*.

" V. ANNAMABOE FORT, built by the preſent Com- " pany. The Fortification conſiſts of *Flankers*, *Out-works*, " *Lodging Rooms* and *Apartments* for the *Chief*, *Factor*, " *Writers* and *Soldiers*; *Magazines* and *Store-houſes*, *Ten* " *great Guns*, *Small Arms*, *Blunderbuſſes*, &c. *Ammunition* for " *Great Guns* and *Small Arms*, *Canoes*, &c. attending the " Building and Garriſon; a large *Tank* or *Ciſtern* made with " *Brick* and *Tarras* ſent from *England*, with a *Negroe-Houſe* " for 150 *Negroes*. This Fort is ſituated in the *Fanteen*'s " *Country*, and opens a Trade to *Fanteen*, *Braman*, *Acrong*, " *Akim*, *Cabeſtras* and *Arcania* for *Gold*, *Corn*, *Palm Oil*, " and *Negroes*. *

" VI. TANTUMQUERRY FORT, built lately § by " the preſent Company, with Apartments for the *Chief*

* This Fort was relinquiſh'd before 1730, but is neceſſary to *be re-ſettled again*, *as before obſerved*.

§ This Fort was built before the Year 1726.

" *Factors*, *Writers*, and *Soldiers*; a *Magazine*, and *Guard* " *Room*, a *Tank*, or large *Cistern* made with Brick and " Tarras sent from *England*, a *Negroe-House* for 50 Ne- " groes, six great Guns, Small Arms, Cutlasses and Am- " munition for great Guns and small Arms. This Fort " stands in the *Acrong* Country, and opens a Trade to " *Fanteen*, *Akim*, and *Anguina* for *Gold*, *Negroes* and " *Corn*.

" VII. WINNEBAH FORT, built by the present " Company. The Fortifications Four *Bastions*, *Out-Works*, " *Apartments* for the *Chief*, *Factor*, *Writers* and *Soldiers*; " *Magazines* and *Guard Rooms*, a *Tank*, made with *Brick* " and *Tarras*, sent from *England*, a *Negroe-House* for 100 " *Negroes*, fifteen great Guns, Small Arms, Cutlasses and " Ammunition for the great Guns and Small Arms. This " Fort stands in the Country of *Anguina*, and opens a Trade " to *Akim* for *Gold* and *Negroes*, and has a River of fresh " Water to supply the Ships, also Timber and Oyster-shells " for repairing the Forts, and a little to the Westward is " a Hill thought to have *Gold-Mines*.

" VIII. ACRA FORT, built by the present Com- " pany. The Castle is four Square, has a *Tower*, *Bastions*, " and *Out-Works*, *Apartments* for the *Chief*, *Factor*, *Writers* " and *Soldiers*: *Magazines*, *Guard Rooms*, and has a *Tank*, " made with *Brick* and *Tarras* sent from *England*, a *Ne-* " *groe-House* for 150 *Negroes*, 30 *great Guns*, *small Arms*, " *Blunderbusses*, and *Ammunition* for great Guns, and small " Arms, and Stores for Artificers. This Fort stands in the " Kingdom of *Acra*, and opens a Trade to *Quambo*, *Akim*, " and *Aquawoa*, for *Gold*, *Negroes*, *Elephant's Teeth* and " *Salt*.

" IX. WIL-

" IX. WILLIAMS-FORT at *Whydah*, built by the " present Company, and hath *Flat-Forms*, *Parades*, *Out-* " *Works*, a *Moat* round, and Apartments for the *Chief*, " *Factors*, *Writers*, *Surgeon*, *Artificers* and *Soldiers*; *Ma-* " *gazines*, *Store-houses*, a *Guard Room*, a *Negroe-house*, 30 " great Guns, small Arms and Ammunition for great Guns, " and small Arms, and Stores for Artificers; and is situ- " ated in the Kingdom of *Whydah*.

" X. COMMENDA FORT, built by the present " Company at very great Expence, maugre all the In- " terest and Opposition of the *Dutch West-India Com-* " *pany*: The Fortification is *four Square*, with four " *Bastions* and a *Tower*; and containing Lodging and " Apartments for the *Chief*, *Factors*, *Writers* and *Soldi-* " *ers*; *Magazines*, *Store-houses*, a *Tank*, or large *Cistern* " made with *Brick* and *Tarras* sent from *England*; and " a *Negroe-house* for 150 *Negroes*; 26 great Guns, with " small Arms, Stores and Ammunition for great Guns " and small Arms. This Fort stands in the Kingdom " of *Aquafoe*, and opens a Trade to the Kingdom of " *Cuffero's*, *Dankaries*, *Ashantees*, *Arcania*, *Acqua*, and " *Abrambo*, for *Gold*, *Negroes*, *Teeth*, and *Palm Oil*.

" XI. SUCCUNDEE FORT, built by the present " Company in the *Antee* Country, near the *Adooms*, and " near a *Dutch Fort*; once taken and destroy'd by *Ne-* " *groes*, hired by the *Dutch West-India Company*, and the " rebuilding thereof afterwards much interrupted by the " same Interest. But since rebuilt, fortify'd and made " larger and stronger than it was at first; has 20 great " Guns, small Arms, Stores, and also lodging Rooms and

" Apartments for the *Chief*, *Factors*, *Writers*, and *Soldiers*;
" Magazines and Store-houſes with a *Tank* for Water, made
" with Brick and Tarras ſent from *England*, and a *Negroe-*
" *houſe* for 100 *Negroes*.

" XII. DIXCOVE FORT, built by the preſent Com-
" pany, and is ſituated in the *Antee* Country; the For-
" tification being four ſquare, has four Baſtions, with 19
" great Guns, ſmall Arms, and Stores; alſo Lodgings and
" Apartments for the *Chief*, *Factors*, *Writers*, *Soldiers*,
" and *Artificers*; Magazines and Storehouſes; and opens a
" Trade to the ſeveral Kingdoms of *Axim*, *Awawee*, *War-*
" *ſaw*, *Dawakray*, and *Aſhantee*, *Inland* Countries, for
" *Gold*, *Elephant's Teeth*, *Negroes*, and *Corn*; and *furniſhes*
" *Timber* for the Repair of the other Forts, and Ships,
" and *Water* for Shipping and *Lime Stone*, and is a Place
" for careening ſmall Veſſels, has a *Tank* or large Ciſtern,
" made with Brick and Tarras ſent from *England*, for
" holding *freſh Water*: and a *Negroe-houſe* to hold 100
" *Negroes*.

" XIII. JAMES FORT and ISLAND in the River
" *Gambia*, on the North Coaſt; the Iſland walled round,
" Outworks, great Guns, ſmall Arms, and Stores, former-
" ly mounted with 90, now with 31 great Guns, with
" ſeveral Warehouſes, Rooms for the *Governor*, *Factors*,
" *Writers*, *Officers*, *Artificers*, *Soldiers*, and *Caſtle Slaves*;
" Workhouſes for Smiths, and other Artificers, Maga-
" zines, and Storehouſes, and a *Negroe-houſe* for 200
" *Negroes*.

" XIV. BENCE

" XIV. BENCE ISLAND, * and the *Island* of *Tassa* on " the River *Sierraleone*; on the first was a Castle forti- " fied, which in the late War was plundered by the " *French*; but the Company have lately resettled the same; " it has 50 great Guns, small Arms, Stores, and also " Lodging Rooms and Apartments for the *Chief*, *Factors*, " *Writers*, *Soldiers*, *Artificers*, and *Castle Slaves*; Maga- " zines and Storehouses, and a *Negroe-house* for 100 " *Negroes*.

" XV. SHERBRO, on *York-Island* on the North Coast		Seven Factory-Houses for purchasing *Redwood*, *Negroes*, *Gold* and *Corn*, which the Company settle or withdraw as They see Occasion.
" ANNISHAM " AGGA " SHIDOE and " ALLAMPO	on the Gold Coast.	
" QUITTAH " JACQUIN	under the Direction of *Whydah*	

" *My Lords*,

" After so particular a Detail of the *Number*, *Nature*, " *Strength*, and *Situation* of the *Royal African Company's* " Forts and Settlements on the Coast of *Africa*; *Your* " *Lordships* will easily judge of the extraordinary Charge, " which of Necessity must arise in the erecting and pre- " serving such remote Buildings and Fortifications, by " sending from hence *Bricks*, *Tiles*, *Tarras*, *Lead*, *Iron-* " *Work*, *Boards*, *Timber*; and all other *Stores*, *Tools* and " *Materials*, and in contracting with, hiring and transport- " ing, *Soldiers*, *Carpenters*, *Smiths*, *Bricklayers*, *Masons*, " *Armourers*,

* *The Company have had no Settlement there since* 1728.

" *Armourers*, *Brick-makers*, *Coopers*, *Sawyers*, and various " other *Artificers*;* and from time to time ſupplying and " recruiting the ſame, as well by Reaſon of the Inſults " and Loſſes, during the War firſt with *Holland*; and " then twice with *France*; As alſo the hiring and Wear " and Tear of Veſſels, and often keeping Ships of Force " upon Demurrage, for the Aſſiſtance and Protection of " ſuch Undertakings; to which may be added the " great Coſt and Charges of obtaining Grants and Agree- " ments, and making and ſupporting Alliances with " the ſeveral *Kings*, *Queens*, and great Men of the Coun- " try, as well in order to make *Settlements* and build " *Forts*, as to defend the Company againſt the ſiniſter " and undermining Deſigns of other *European* Compe- " titors in that Country. So that upon the Whole the " ſaid Company humbly hope *Your Lordſhips* will agree, " if they were to part with their Right and Property " in their ſaid *Forts* and *Settlements*, either to the Crown, " or any other Society or Body of Men, and to value " Them only according to what they have actually coſt " Them, They might juſtly ſet a very great Price upon " them."

But were theſe *Forts* and *Settlements*, Sir, to be eſtimated according to their Uſefulneſs and Importance to the *Britiſh* Nation, who will take upon himſelf to ſay, how great the Value may be? Were they to be valued only according to what they have coſt the Company from 1697, when the Trade was laid open, to the preſent Time, the Company can make appear, it will amount to no leſs a Principal Sum, excluſive of all Money

* And above all, *in Paying and Maintaining them There.*

Money received of the Publick, than 607,505 *l.* 4 *s.* 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. *

But if we take into Consideration, as I am persuaded you will think just and reasonable, the Interest of the *annual Surplus Moneys* taken in an Average from 1697 to 1743, being 46 Years, it will amount to a much more considerable Sum. For 607,505 *l.* divided by 46 will give the Sum of 13,206 *l. per Annum*; which the Company have actually advanced one Year with another more than They have received, since the *African Trade* has been laid open: And if *Interest* be reckoned on the said *annual Surplus Monies*, at so low a Rate only as that of 4 *per Cent. per Annum*, from 1697, when Money has been of considerably more Value, it will amount to the Sum of 1,675,451 *l.* Sterling. And this without taking into the Account the Prime Cost, or any Interest thereon, of the *Forts* and *Settlements*

Received of the Publick Money.		*Expended on* Forts *and* Settlements.	
By Ten-per-Cent. Duty *from* 1697 *to* 1712.	73,758 *l.* 10 *s.* 6 *d.* $\frac{2}{3}$	*From* 1697 *to* 1712.	280,000 *l.* 0 *s.* 0 *d.*
By Parliamentary Allowance *from* 1730 *to* 1743.	136,075 *l.* 2 *s.* 0 *d.*	*From* 1712 *to* 1729.	300,000 *l.* 0 *s.* 0 *d.*
	209,833 *l.* 12 *s.* 6 *d.* $\frac{2}{3}$	*From* 1729 *to* 1743.	237,338 *l.* 16 *s.* 8 *d.*
* *Balance expended more than received from* 1697 *to* 1743.	607,505 *l.* 4 *s.* 1 *d.* $\frac{1}{3}$		817,338 *l.* 16 *s.* 8 *d.*
	817,338 *l.* 16 *s.* 8 *d.*		

ments, purchaſed of the Old Company, the Expences of building new Ones and repairing the Old, as in the *Memorial* before taken Notice of.

From the foregoing Account, Sir, You will eaſily obſerve the Company have not increaſed the Number of their *Forts* and *Settlements* in *Africa* wantonly and at Random; but upon mature Deliberation; and in order to keep Pace with other Rivals; and to prevent the Loſs of a due Balance of Power and Intereſt among the Natives in that remote part of the World. This was the firſt and principal Object of their Care; to accompliſh this, they ſpared no Coſt or Expences; even before they received any Encouragement from the Publick. And though the Allowance lately made by Parliament bears no Proportion to the Charges and Expences, which the Company have been at in purchaſing and erecting ſo many Forts and Settlements for the Protection and Security of this Trade againſt the many Dangers it was expoſed to; though the ſaid Allowance has come far ſhort of what the Company has ſince expended in keeping and maintaining them; I ſay, though theſe are Facts, which can admit of no Diſpute; yet ſo ready and willing have the Company been to admit all their Fellow-Subjects to ſhare with them in the Benefits and Advantages, which they had thus ſecured to their Country; that immediately, upon the firſt 10,000*l.* being granted, they ſent Inſtructions to all their Servants in *Africa* to the Effect following, *viz.* " You are to treat ſuch *Britiſh* Traders " as may apply to You, with all Friendſhip and Civility; " and in Caſe of their being in any ſort of Diſtreſs " whilſt on the Coaſt, you are to give them all the " Aſſiſtance, Protection and Relief you can. And if they

" have

" have any Goods left after they have finished their Trade " on the Coast, which They would chuse to leave with you " till they return, rather than carry them round about, by " the Way of the *West-Indies* and home again, you are to " receive them into our Warehouses, and there to keep " them safe, and to take the same Care of them, as you do " of the Company's Goods *Gratis*." And the like Instructions were again repeated no longer ago than the Year 1741, *viz.* " You are to treat all such *British* private " Traders as may apply to you, with all Friendship and " Civility; and in Case of their being in any sort of Distress whilst on the Coast, you are to give them all the " Assistance, Protection and Relief you can; and in Case " any of them should incline to trade with you for *Negroes*, " and to pay for them in such Goods and Merchandize " as may be in Demand at that Time on the Coast, " and which you may want in order to assort the Company's Warehouses, it is left to you to agree and deal " with them upon such Terms as you shall jointly judge " most for the Advantage of the Company, *With this express Proviso, That you do not take or receive any Goods or Merchandize whatsoever, from any Person or Persons whatsoever, but such only as you shall Pay for in Negroes, before the Departure of such Person or Persons from the Coast*."

It might look too much like Vanity and Ostentation to enumerate at large the many *Letters* and *Certificates*, which the Company have received within the Compass of 14 Years last past, setting forth the several Services which They have done to private Traders on the Coast of *Africa*, *by saving their Goods when their Ships have been lost*; *by protecting*

 them

them against the Insults and exorbitant Demands of the Natives; and by furnishing them with Wood, Water, and other Necessaries, &c. when ever in Distress: As this, I say Sir, would appear ostentatious, and swell this *Letter* to too great a Bulk to obtain your Perusal, I shall content myself with only mentioning a recent Instance: *viz.* Upon some *Spanish Privateers* coming down last Year upon the *Gold Coast*, the Company's *Agents* at *Cape-Coast-Castle*, not only secured and protected such *Ships* and private *Traders*, with their *Goods*, *Merchandize* and *Negroes* as applied to them against those *Privateers*; but likewise took Care of such Ship's *Crews*, as the *Spaniards* had taken before They came down among the *Forts*, and afterwards turned ashore among the Natives, and fitted out one of the Company's own Vessels with Provisions and all other Necessaries for the Voyage, and then dispatched Her with them directly home to *Great-Britain*.

Having thus laid before You, Sir, the manifest *Importance* of the *British Forts* and *Settlements* in *Africa* to this trading Nation; and the indispensable Necessity of their being *effectually maintained and supported*, I shall only beg leave to trespass on your Patience by offering a few Remarks more to your Consideration, and then conclude.

As to the Expence necessary to maintain the Company's *Forts* and *Settlements* so as duely to support the *British* Interest in *Africa*, may They not reasonably hope that the Guardians of our Liberties and Trade will make them such an Allowance as shall be equivalent at least to those extraordinary Encouragements and Privileges, we have before seen, our Rivals give to their respective Companies on the same Coast? How can *our African Company* with less Encouragement

maintain

maintain their Right, and prevent the *French* from trading at *Anamaboe*, and other Parts of the Coast, from whence they furnish their Plantations with Plenty of the choicest *Negroes?* Can it be imagined that so inconsiderable an Allowance, or even double the Sum which has been hitherto given Them, will enable the Company to keep the *French* from trading within Sight of *Cape-Coast-Castle* itself, while they will not suffer a *British* Vessel to come within hundreds of Miles of the least of their *Settlements?*

Tho' the Company have expended since 1730, 17,000 *l. per Annum* (exclusive of 70,000 *l.* more, in 14 Years for other Services, as before intimated;) yet they have not, *with all this Expense*, been able duely to support and extend this valuable Branch of Trade near to the Degree it is capable of. What Sum therefore ought to be allowed the Company to answer those desirable Ends, I will not take upon me to suggest; That must be submitted to the Wisdom of Parliament.

But supposing the Parliamentary Allowance was to be *Thirty Thousand Pounds* a Year or more; what is that in Comparison to the Advantages the Nation will reap by it? Or what is that in Comparison to the large Sums allowed for the Protection and Defence of other Places of far less Importance to this Nation? Are not the Garrisons of *Annapolis-Royal* and *Placentia* maintained for the Protection of *New-England* and the *Fisheries?* Are not *Gibraltar* and *Port Mahone* supported for the Security and Protection of our Trade to the *Mediterranean?* Tho' *Jamaica*, the *Leeward Islands*, *New-York*, *Bermudas* and *Providence* are establish'd Governments, and have Power to raise Money within Themselves for their own Protection and Defence; yet does

not the Parliament grant considerable Sums every Year for their Encouragement and Protection?

If then the Parliament thinks it fit and reasonable to be at a considerable Expense for the Protection of several *particular Colonies* and Branches of Trade, may not the Company far more reasonably expect effectual Support to enable them to preserve the *African Trade* on which the very *Being* of *All our Colonies and Plantations* so greatly depends? And consequently, on which, more, I may presume to say, depends than upon all the other Branches of our *Foreign Trade* put together.

Permit me then to ask you, Sir, If the Nation in general reaps such immense Benefit and Advantage by the Trade to *Africa*, is it not most reasonable that the NATION IN GENERAL should be at the whole Charge of protecting, and transmitting the same secure to Posterity?

If all private Traders to *Africa* ought to be considered in no other Light, but as *Carriers* to our Plantations; and that at the Hazard of their own private Fortunes; would it not be highly unreasonable to think of laying them, when employed so much for the *general Interest* of the Nation, under *any Sort of Discouragement* whatever?

But this, Sir, is not all: Be the Sum the Parliament shall grant for this Service as great as it will; I will venture to maintain that, the greater it is, the more will the Nation be Gainers thereby. Have the *French* surprisingly improved and encreased their *Sugar Colonies* of late Years? It is too well known they have. Have they not beat us out of the *Sugar Trade* in almost all the Markets of *Europe*? Nothing is more certain. But how, and by what Means have they, who came so late into this Trade, been so successful,

bessful, and able not only to rival us therein, but even almost absolutely to beat us quite out of it? Not only, Sir, by their allowing *Bounties*, instead of laying *Duties* upon the Products of their Plantations, but chiefly by our great and inexcusable Neglect of the Trade to *Africa* on the one Hand, and the tender Care, we see, they have taken on the other to cherish and encourage it; and thereby to have their Plantations *plentifully supplied with Negroes*.

Had the Nature and Importance of this Trade been duly entered into and considered, and proper Measures taken in Time, this Nation might have long since had the whole *Negroe-Trade* in their own Hands; and in Consequence thereof, might not *Great-Britain* easily have set what Bounds She pleased to the *French Colonies* and *Plantations*? Would not this have, in a great Measure, prevented the Encrease of their Seamen and *Naval Power*? And, to lay the Axe to the Root of the Tree, what can more effectually answer so desirable an End, as a vigorous Protection of the *African Trade*, and enabling the Company to maintain the *British* Interests, Rights and Privileges against all their Insults and Encroachments?

What has been the true Cause that these Measures have not heretofore taken Place to prevent the Evils we at present labour under? To this I shall ingenuously answer. While the Company vainly contended on the one hand to *exclude* all the Rest of their *Fellow-Subjects* from this Trade; and while the *Private Traders* on the other, in the Heat of their Opposition, stuck at Nothing to run down the Company, no Body amongst us studied to reconcile and harmonize such jarring Interests; and therefore the fatal Consequence has been, as it always will be upon the

like

like Occasions, that the *French*, our common Rival and Enemy, have profited by our *unnatural Divisions*; in so much that from the *Gold Coast* only, where They have no Right to Trade at all, they daily furnish their Plantations with Ten Negroes at least to one that is carried to the *British Plantations*.

And now, Sir, You will naturally enquire what Measures ought *Great-Britain* to take effectually to prevent these Consequences in future? To this I shall give You an Answer that, I humbly conceive, will have due Weight with every candid and impartial Judge.

The Coast of *Africa* is of a very large Extent, and opens a Communication with many rich and populous Inland Countries; and consequently there is Room enough for the *Company*, and for the *Private Traders* too, to enlarge their Trade there, in what Manner, and to what Degree they please.

The Company, by the Situation of their *Forts*, and by the Means of navigable Rivers, will naturally have it more in their Power to open and extend the Trade to the remotest *Inland Parts* of *Africa*, and find a Vent and Consumption for larger Quantities of *British* Manufactures, and thereby to bring down greater Quantities of *Negroes* to the Sea-Coast than can be easily imagined: And the *Private Traders* are better able to supply our Plantations with *Negroes*; because they carry on a constant Intercourse of General Trade with the *British* Plantations, and have settled Correspondence there with Relations, Friends, and Partners, who will be more careful to do Them Justice, as well as more punctual in making Returns than any Agents appointed by the Company have been for their Account: As the Private Traders

are

are thus able to prosecute this Branch of the Trade *from Africa to the Plantations*, with greater Advantage than the Company, let the *Company* and *Private Traders* go hand in hand; let each Party vigorously apply Themselves to those Branches of the Trade, which suits them best; and let both heartily and unanimously join in all proper Measures for putting a Stop to the Encroachments of all other *Intruders* upon the *British* Rights and Privileges on the Coast of *Africa*: I say, Sir, let all the several Parties concerned, steadily pursue these Measures; and then, I will venture to prophesie, that whatever Sum or Sums of Money the *Parliament*, in their great Wisdom, shall think fit to give the Company to enable them effectually to maintain and support their *Forts* and *Settlements*; it will be like the Seed that fell upon good Ground; it may be made to return from Some Places *Fifty*, and from Others an *hundred-fold*.

I am,

SIR,

Your most Obedient,

and most humble Servant.

are thus able to produce this Branch of the Trade from
[illegible] in the Adventure, giving greater Advantages to
the Company, let the Company and Factors of Trades to
hand in hand, let each Party vigorously apply Themselves
to their Branches of the Trade, which fills them bef; and
let both heartily and unanimously join in all proper Me-
thods for putting a Stop to the Encroachments of all other
Factories upon the Rights and Privileges on the Coast
of Africa; I say, Sir, let all the several Parties concerned
heartily pursue their Measures; and then, I will venture to
prophesie, that whatever Sum or Sums of Money the Parties
would be at their great Wisdom, shall think fit to give the
Company to enable them effectually to maintain and sup-
port their Fort and Settlements; it will be like the Seed that
fell upon good Ground; it may be made to return from
some Places [illegible] and from [illegible] an hundred-fold.

I am,

SIR,

Your most Obedient,

and most humble Servant.